

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, May 1. 1707.

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I Am now to handle a very odd Question. —And considering the Day on which I have directed this Paper to come out, I hope it may not be improper.

*We hear the Bells ring, the Guns fire, and the Day is usher'd in with all the Signals that can be given of A DAY OF JOY; we are to go to Church, and sing Hallelujah—*

*Obey joyful, and the like. Pray, what are we to be so joyful for? What is there in this Union, that we should give such solemn Thanks for; let us enquire into the Merits of it?*

This, I confess, is a Question of vast Extent, and the Answer might be swell'd into a large Volume—— But I am not about to write a Book upon it, and I hope, the Reverend Men of the Pulpit will take a great Part of the Work off of my Hands. My managing of it shall be a

different Way, perhaps, from what most of the Town shall meet with.

And 1<sup>st</sup>. I shall say, we are to be thankful for the Union it self.

2. For the Wonders of its finishing.
3. For the visible immediate Effects of it.
4. For the pleasing Prospects of it.

1. For the general Thing call'd Union, in which I include an entire ceasing from War, Blood, Rapine, and Devastation, which has spread it self over this whole Island so often, destroy'd so many flourishing Harbours, depopulated so many pleasant Countries, demolish'd so many Houses, Castles, and fine Seats of the Gentlemen, Villages and Towns of the Inhabitants of both Nations, and to sum up all, has spilt such Seas of Blood, enur'd the People to Cruelties, and made Robberies, Rapes, Murthers, and

all Sorts of Violences so familiar to them, till the very Inhabitants of the Marches of both Nations have become in a Manner perfectly barbarous—— And like wild Beasts, were continually lying in Wait for devouring and destroying one another—— If we had nothing but this to be thankful for—— I should be justify'd in saying, the Union is a Blessing to this Island, and a Thing we ought to be very thankful for.

Let any Man that would lessen this Blessing, or slight the Motion of Thankfulness for it, look into the Histories of both Kingdoms, and see there the black Description of the Wars between these two Nations, the Blood, the Fury, the Animosities of the respective Inroads of Armies on either side, the Burnings, Plunderings, and Desolation they carry'd with them, and the innumerable Numbers of People that perish'd on both sides on every Occasion.

Let them next read some of the Books written on both sides against the Union; the Parable of the Foxes and the Monkeys, a Manuscript which I suppose, no body durst print, and which if it had, ought to have been call'd *the shortest Way with the Scots*; several other Tracts about reducing Scotland by Arms, and the like on the English side; then let them read *the Necessity of a War with England to heal all the Distempers of the Nation*; several Accounts to prove, Scotland was always a Gainer by a War with England, two Tracts of Advantages by a Union with France, and such as these on the side of the Scots; and from these Writers, together with due Observations on the Circumstances and Times, and let them see here the Forwardness in a Sort of People among us, to revive the antient Animosities, and renew our Years of Blood among us.

Next let them consider, what a bloody and destructive War it must have been, if the wicked Designs of these People had succeeded; how French Power from abroad, join'd with Jacobite Power at home, would have remov'd the Seat of the War into our own Bowels—And have taught those People, that have formerly snarl'd at the Expence and Taxes of the War, I say, have taught them by sad Experience, the Difference between paying for a War abroad, and feeling a War at home.

Lastly, let them consider, that the Union having miscarry'd, it was almost next to impossible to have prevented its issuing in a Breach; the War seem'd so inevitable, that no wise Man will, I believe, make it a Question, and I am sure the Party that drove at the first, pleas'd themselves with the Certainty of the last.

I could enlarge very pleasingly on these Heads, but this is not the Place for it, my Inference is plain, and I hope very just—These are sufficient to my Argument; if these are not things to be thankful for, let these be confuted, and I'll find out some more.

'Tis evident, the Union has effectually overthrown all the Schemes of Jacobitism, French Power, or Arbitrary Principles, and the very Opposition the Advocates for those Causes made against it, is a Demonstration, if there were no other, that they were convinc'd of it—— And these are some of my Grounds, why we should be thankful for the Union in general.

2. We have strange concurring things in the carrying on and finishing this Union, which we ought to be very sensible of, and thankful for. Such as,

1. The Juncture of Affairs abroad; when the French Power was so embarrass'd, that it had no Leisure to look this Way, or to succour their Friends in Scotland, who struggled with the Weakness of their Hands, as well as with the Weakness of their Cause, and who being abandon'd of their main Support, could do little but clamour, cavil, make Speeches, show their Good-Will against it, and at last sink under it; whereas had France been able but to have supply'd the Party with but 4000 Men, Arms, Artillery and Ammunition, and some Money; instead of a Union, we had in all Probability been by this Time in Blood all over the North, and that two or three sides one against another.

2. The Circumstance and Posture of Parties at home, the Conquest made over High-Flying Principles in England, the Ruin of Tacking Projects, the dividing the unpeaceable People here, and the baulking their Hopes; That the Parliament, the Court, the Gentry, and the People of Eng.



England, had by a new and very nice Turn of Affairs, lately or but as it were just for the Occasion, recover'd themselves, and restor'd a Spirit of Peace and Liberty in the Nation; from which alone the Blessed Hopes of a Union, could be made rational, and the Want of which had always made former Unions abortive. These are what I call the Wonders of the Times, or at least some of them; and these were the things that made this Union practicable now, when all the Attempts made this Way formerly, prov'd abortive and imperfect: I say, these are but some of them, there were infinite minute Circumstances in the carrying on, timing, managing and finishing this Union, which if they had not, by the immediate and supernatural Influence of secret and invisible Power, been directed to concur, might have obstructed, and would most effectually have not prevented the Union only, but have involv'd the Nations in Blood and Confusions; such as the Season of the Year, the excessive Rains and unusual wet Weather, which prevented the People, that thought and contriv'd the Mischief of Rabbles and Arms, putting any thing in Practice— The Country being unpassable, and marching or lying abroad being impracticable, the early Rising of the Tumults which were made, beginning before the Mischiefs design'd were ripe for Execution, like a Bomb in the Air, burst before they were capable of the Evil they intended; or like an ill-charg'd Mine, taking Fire before its Time, which bursts out backward, and overwhelms the Engineers that contriv'd it.

I could fill not this Paper only, but a large Volume, with the many Steps the Enemies of the Union took to interrupt it; all which by the wonderful secret Turnings of Providence, within the Wheel of Causes and Consequences, were all made assistant and subservient to the great End now brought to pass— And these are Things we ought to give Thanks for, and Things which I hope those that keep their Eye upon the Actings of Providence in the World, cannot but be pleas'd with observing.

3. The visible immediate Effects of this Union are the next Things, we are in my poor Opinion to give Thanks for— And 'tis my Misfortune here still to be straitened for Room— By the immediate Effects of this Union, I mean, the Encouragements of our Friends, disheartning our Enemies, the Bate of the Minds of the People every where, the high Reputation it gives our Kingdom in the World, the Security it is to our Properties and Estates; let the Flux of our Payments into publick Funds, let the Fall of Interest upon Money advanc'd on publick Securities, let the Difference between Exchequer Bills at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. and now at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. let these Things testify for me, whether I judge wrong, when I say the Union has its present Effects.

And here I am interrupted with an Objection, Yes, yes, says a Tory Wine Merchant now we see the immediate Effects of the Union indeed, particularly in Trade, and have much to be thankful for— While in the Interval, to the 1st. of May, the Scots are crowding the whole Nation with French Goods, Wine and Brandy, &c. Which paying but a Trifle of Custom here, will be imported upon us here; while we having paid high Duties, and imported from other Countries, feel the Loss already in a general Stop of Trade, and Fall of Prices. Pray, what have we to be thankful for here, Sir?

This is a long Question, and needs out a short Answer; a mighty Scurr indeed has been made of this Matter, and the Mole-Hill Advantage to Scotland is made a mighty Mountain here.

The Fact is true, Gentlemen, so it needs no Answer— But first let us observe, 'Tis not Scotland nor Scots Men that make the Gain, but 'tis your own Doing; 'tis English Stocks, and they are English Merchants, that interloping upon every Branch of Trade they can have Access to, push'd in a great Parcel of Goods from Holland to be imported into England to save the Duties; so that if it be a Prejudice to Trade, take it among you, Gentlemen; the short and long of the Story in my Opinion is nothing but this, the Knaves have done it, and the Fools, that have neglected it, complain—

2. But when all is done, let us enquire into the Fact, and see, if like the D—l and his Hog-sheering, the Cry be not more than the Wool—The Fleet is now arriv'd from Holland, and the Goods come in, and how many hundred Sail of Ships do ye think, they are——*Ridiculus Mus*, all this huge Fleet, that was to drown us with Wine and Brandy, are but 36 Sail, most of them Doggers and small Vessels, and one with another not above 60 to 80 Tun Burthen, and of these several are loaden with Salt—What can all this amount to? For Shame, Gentlemen, go to Church and be thankful, and make no more Noise about such Trifles.

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